Amendments to the Specification

The additions have been indicated by underlining (<u>underlining</u>). The deletions have been indicated by strikethrough (<u>strikethrough</u>).

Please replace the paragraph on page 52 lines 10 through 16 with the following amended paragraph:

Loss of function in 3T3-L1 adipocytes by RNAi technique

In order to stably inhibit PrI-1 expression, 3T3-L1 preadipocytes were engineered by retroviral infection aimed to express a target specific short interfering RNA construct under the control of the human hH1 promoter according to Brummelkamp et al. (Science 2002, Vol 296, p. 550-553). The following PrI-1 specific RNAi sequence was used: AGG ATT CCA ATG GTC ATA G (SEQ ID NO. 14) (SEQ ID NO: 26).